

2 DEC 1947

BALDOCK URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

To the Chairman and Members of the Baldock Urban District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Madam and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my Thirtyfirst Annual Report on the health and sanitary conditions of your district, as required by the Ministry of Health under the Sanitary Officer's Orders.

The Report covers the period from 1st January to the 31st December, 1946.

The Report is considerably curtailed, in accordance with the instructions of the Ministry of Health.

SECTION A:Statistics and Social Conditions of the District.

Area (in acres)	542
Residential Population (Registrar-General's Figure)	5,521
Local Estimate	5,900
Number of inhabited houses	1,178
Rateable value	£30,878.
Sum represented by a penny rate.	£125:10:5

Vital StatisticsBirths

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>
Live births: Legitimate	95	54	41
Illegitimate	8	4	4
Totals	103	58	45
Birth Rate :	18.65		
England & Wales	19.1		
Still Births: Legitimate	10	4	6
Illegitimate	—	—	—
Totals	10	4	6
Still birth rate per thousand total births	88.49		

Deaths

Deaths of Infants under one year of age:	<u>Total</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>
Legitimate	2	—	2
Illegitimate	1	1	—
Totals	3	1	2
Infant Mortality Rate (per 1000 live births)	27.18		

Total Deaths

Male	...	20
Female	...	<u>38</u>
	Total	<u>58</u>

Death Rate	...	10.50
England & Wales	...	11.5

The Chief causes of death were as follows:-

Ref.No.		Male 1946	Female 1946	Total 1946	Total 1945
6	Tuberculosis of Resp.Sys.	1	2	3	1
7	Other forms of Tuberculosis	-	2	2	-
13-16	Cancer	4	6	10	11
17	Diabetes	-	1	1	-
18	Intra Cran. Lesions	2	5	7	3
12	Heart Disease	5	7	12	12
20	Other diseases of Circ.Sys.	-	1	1	4
24	Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum	-	-	-	-
26	Appendicitis	-	-	-	-
27	Other digestive diseases	-	2	2	-
32	Con. Mal Birth	1	1	2	2
33	Suicide	1	-	1	1
34	Road accidents	-	1	1	1
35	Other violent causes	1	1	2	-
36	All other causes	3	5	8	9
25	Diarrhoea under 2 yrs. of age-	-	-	-	2

Death of Cancer (all ages) 10

There were no deaths from Measles, Influenza, Scarlet Fever.

SECTION B:

General Provisions of Health Services for the Area

(i) Staff 1946

Medical Officer of Health (Part-time)
Bertram Suggit, M.B., Ch.B. (Leeds and Manchester)
D.P.H. (Cambs).

Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector:
Leslie R. Brown, M.R.San.I. A.F.A.S. to June 1946
Bruce W.E. Makepeace, M.R.San.I. M.R.I.P.H.H. from Sept. 1946.

(ii) Other Services

Laboratory, Ambulance, Nursing and Hospital services.
The arrangements for these services are as in former years
and are satisfactory.

SECTION C:

Sanitary Circumstances of Baldock

1. (i) Water

The Baldock U.D.C. is the water supply authority.
Water is obtained in bulk from the First Garden City
Limited's Pumping Stations at Baldock Road and Willian Road.
Bacteriological samples are taken both by the Company and
the Council and have proved satisfactory. The Bondor Company's
houses have their own private supply.

(ii) Drainage and Sewerage

No change in the system. Consulting Engineers have

prepared two schemes, one for pumping the sewage to Letchworth Works and one for the installation of a new works at Baldock. The Council are now giving careful consideration to the Schemes.

2. Rivers and Streams
No change.

3. (i) Closet Accommodation
No change.

(ii) Public Cleansing

Despite the difficulty of labour, the collection of refuse and salvage has been very satisfactory.

Fortnightly collection is made throughout the district except for shops and business premises, from which weekly collection is made. A controlled refuse tip is operated in conjunction with the Letchworth U.D.C.

The following salvage was recovered:

<u>Weight</u>	<u>Article</u>	<u>Value</u>
T. O. Q. Lbs.		
40.13.8.-	Mixed baled paper	£305.5.10.
2.19.-.-	Pig Food Salvage	£ 3.13.9.
2.19.2.6.	Iron Rags.String etc.	7.11.10.

(iii) Sanitary Inspection of the Area

Houses visited under Public Health Acts.	10
Housing Acts	17
Factories and Workshops	3
Nuisances investigated	59
Prevention of Infectious Disease	5
Cowsheds, Dairies and Bakehouses	16
Butchers and Other shops	5
Miscellaneous	27

(iv) Shops and Offices

There are 81 shops in the district; all those dealing with food stuffs have been visited during the period, no contraventions found. No inspections of offices carried out.

(v) Swimming Pool (Private).

Samples taken each month by chemists employed by owners of the pool and also by the Council. These samples have been reasonably satisfactory.

(vi) Eradication of Bed Bugs
No cases were reported.

SECTION D:

Housing

During 1946 work was commenced on 20 traditional houses at Weston Way together with road and sewer works to accommodate a further 80 houses.

In October the Council inspected various types of non-traditional houses and in December entered into a contract for the erection of 100 "No-Pipes" concrete houses, work upon which was immediately started. A further small scheme of 10 houses was also commenced during the last months of 1946.

The Council had in December 1946 130 houses under contract.

Housing Act, 1936. Overcrowding

Local conditions have caused numerous difficulties.

The present population of the district is 5521; the population in 1938 was 3,829. There is inevitably a large number of cases of overcrowding which the Council are anxious to alleviate by the provision of new houses.

SECTION E:

Inspection and Supervision of Food

(a) Milk Supply

One farm in the area is licensed for producing, bottling and retailing Tuberculin Tested (Certified) and Accredited Milk. One other person was registered as a retail purveyor and has premises in the district.

(b) Meat and other foods

All fresh meat supplies are inspected at Letchworth, and the quality of meat coming into the district is remarkably good.

In addition, the following were condemned:-

2 stone haddock, 50 tins Evaporated milk, 1 tin plums
58 tin milk, 2 tins beans, 14 tins peas, 1 tin salmon,
1 tin fish, 6 tins pilchards, 1 tin salmon, 1 tin treacle,
1 tin chopped ham, 5 cwt. of potatoes; 2 tins beans,
3 stone of cod, 3 stone of Finns, 1 tin steak, 21 lbs.
chicken, 25 lbs. of raisins, 5 tins of pilchards,
1 tin salmon, 1 tin of brisling, 1 tin of pudding, 1 tin
soup, 1 packet of Allbran, 3 lb. of flour, 2 tins plums,
3 tins of jam, 1 tin of pork luncheon meat, 1 tin spaghetti
1 tin peas, 2 tins beans, 1½ stone of cod, 5 stone herrings
2 tins steak, 1 tin sausage, 2 tins pilchards, 1 tin beans
1 tin salmon, 1 tin macaroni & cheese.

SECTION F:

Prevalence of and Control over Infectious
and other Diseases

Chicken Pox	...	...	...	...	...	7
Measles	...	...	...	...	...	3
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	...	1
Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	...	3
Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	...	4
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	...	8

Tuberculosis

New cases during the period.

2 Pulmonary Male
1 Pulmonary Female
1 Non-Pulmonary Female

C O N C L U S I O N

The Birth Rate for 1946 is slightly higher than the figure for 1945, but the upward trend was not as great as for the National Birth Rate which rose from 16.1 to 19.1 per thousand population. It is to be noted that the proportion of illi

illegitimate births is still roughly $\frac{1}{8}$ th of the total births.

The death rate is rather higher than in the previous year but still less than the rate for England and Wales. Another point of interest is that the present population of the district is almost double that of the pre-war figure. The consequence of this importation of population have already been referred to and it is to be hoped that a speedy completion of the housing programme will relieve the gross over-crowding which at present exists in the town.

I should like to express my appreciation of the help given by my colleagues in the Health Department.

BERTRAM SUGGIT
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

